

**To:** Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Sat 8/8/2015 6:02:41 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Farmington Public Meeting - FINAL Talking Points 12 PM MT TODAY

**- Paula**

**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 10:01 AM  
**To:** Harrison, Melissa; Purchia, Liz; Smith, Paula; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Higuchi, Dean; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Peterson, Cynthia; Faulk, Libby; Hestmark, Martin; Ostrander, David; Card, Joan; Gray, David; McGrath, Shaun; Purchia, Liz; Lee, Monica; Daguillard, Robert; Hull, George; Coleman, Sam; Curry, Ron; Rupp, Mark; Vaught, Laura; Distefano, Nichole; Seager, Cheryl; Garbow, Avi; Ward, W. Robert  
**Subject:** Farmington Public Meeting - FINAL Talking Points 12 PM MT TODAY

All – Here are the final talking points for our on-scene coordinator to use at the public meeting in Farmington NM today. Please review and immediately let us know of any corrections or concerns.

David

214.789.2619

## KEY MESSAGES

On Aug. 5 while investigating Gold King Mine in Colorado, EPA and State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety

triggered a large release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek.

EPA takes responsibility for this unfortunate accident.

EPA is working closely with first responders and local and state officials to ensure the safety of citizens to water contaminated by the spill.

The spill path flows through 3 of EPA's regions (Region 8 (Colorado/Utah & Southern Ute Tribe); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation)).

EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington DC.

EPA is closely coordinating with the officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation.

EPA is taking the lead on efforts to contain the leak and flow from the mine is reduced and additional countermeasures are being taken.

EPA has also deployed federal On-Scene Coordinators and other technicians in Colorado, New Mexico and Navajo Nation to assist with preparations and first response activities in these jurisdictions.

EPA currently has federal On-Scene Coordinators in the field to direct response activities and assist with preparedness. I am the OSC in New Mexico.

An additional technicians and scientist are providing technical assistance including laboratory services. I have 6 contractors working in New Mexico.

EPA ASPECT aircraft is conducting overflights to track the spill.

EPA is sharing information as quickly as possible with the community as experts work to analyze any effects the spill may have on drinking water and public health.

Public drinking supply systems have been notified and have plans in place when water intakes are threatened.

Drinking water systems can store water before shutting down intakes or have alternative water sources not affected by the spill.

EPA released information on the make up on materials in the spill. The spill contained several heavy metals including cadmium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, zinc - and PH is expected to range between 6.5 and 7.6. This information is available on our public website.

EPA is scheduling regular updates on the response for the public, elected officials and the media.

EPA has established a Gold King Mine response information website accessible through any of our regional (Region 6, 8, and 9) webpages. [www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6)